

## 12.266 UTILIZATION OF VEHICLE ENTRY DEVICES

**Definition:**

**Slim-Jim** A metal device which can be slipped between the window and molding of a vehicle's window to unlock the vehicle's door.

**Purpose:**

Provide a guide for officers in the use of vehicle entry devices or Slim-Jims

**Policy:**

Personally owned vehicle entry devices (Slim-Jims) may be carried by on duty personnel to expedite the police mission.

**Information:**

Police officers possessing Slim-Jim tools for opening locked vehicles should be aware that a single type of Slim-Jim will not open all vehicles.

This procedure does not preclude the use of a Slim-Jim to execute a search warrant.

**Procedure:**

- A. Police officers may utilize Slim-Jim devices in the following circumstances:
1. To facilitate the removal of an auto that is blocking traffic or causing a hazard.
  2. Protection of life or property; (e.g., small child locked in auto).
  3. Conditions exist that the use of a Slim-Jim device would expedite the police mission. Some conditions to be considered include but are not limited to:
    - destitute nature of vehicle's driver
    - lateness of the hour
    - location of occurrence
    - a lack of alternative assistance
    - possible threat to vehicle/driver's safety

- B. Police officers utilizing the Slim-Jim to open autos, under the above circumstances, will first determine that the requesting person is the owner of the vehicle or legally entitled to entry.
  - 1. Owners must be informed of the possibility of damage to the vehicle.
  - 2. Damage to vehicles resulting from the use of a Slim-Jim other than as described in A.2. will be the personal responsibility of the user of the device.
    - a. Officers should be aware of newer model vehicles with anti theft devices and safety equipment (e.g., side impact airbags).
- C. Police Communications Section (PCS) will not dispatch police units to utilize Slim-Jim devices except in the circumstances described in A.2.